

**What is claimed is:**

**1. A safe toy balloon comprising:**

(a) an inflatable elastomeric member having an exterior surface, an interior surface, a neck portion and a body portion; and

(b) a safety coating formed on one or more of said surfaces of said inflatable member, said safety coating consisting essentially of repulsive taste agent.

**2. The safe toy balloon of Claim 1, wherein said safety coating is formed on only a designated portion of said at least one of said exterior surface and said interior surface of said inflatable member.**

**3. The safe toy balloon of Claim 1, wherein said repulsive taste agent comprises a bittering agent.**

**4. The safe toy balloon of Claim 2, wherein said designated portion of said inflatable member comprises a part of said body portion.**

**5. The safe toy balloon of Claim 2, wherein said designated portion is not co-extensive with said neck portion of said inflatable member.**

**6. The safe toy balloon of Claim 3, wherein said bittering agent comprises Denatonium Benzoate.**

**7. A method of producing a safe toy balloon comprising:**

(a) providing a dipping assembly containing at least one toy balloon forming material supporting mandrel;

(b) providing a series of vats including at least one vat containing liquid toy balloon forming material;

(c) dipping said at least one toy balloon forming material supporting mandrel into said at least one vat containing liquid toy balloon forming material to form a toy balloon on said at least one toy balloon forming material supporting mandrel; and

(c) coating said toy balloon so formed with a repulsive taste agent resulting in a safe toy balloon having a repulsive tasting coating that will cause a person placing a piece of such toy balloon in the mouth to automatically and immediately reject and expel such piece, thereby making such toy balloon safe to use.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein coating said toy balloon so formed with a repulsive taste agent is achieved by coating said at least one balloon forming material supporting mandrel with the repulsive taste agent.

8. The method of claim 8, wherein said series of vats includes a first vat in said series containing said repulsive taste agent.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said series of vats includes a last vat in said series containing said repulsive taste agent.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein said repulsive taste agent comprises a bittering agent.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said bittering agent comprises Denatonium Benzoate.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein said balloon forming material supporting mandrel includes a balloon body supporting portion and a balloon neck supporting portion, and wherein coating said toy balloon so formed with a repulsive taste agent is achieved by coating only said balloon body supporting portion with said repulsive taste agent.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein coating said toy balloon so formed with a repulsive taste agent comprises spraying said repulsive taste agent onto said balloon material supporting mandrel.

14. The safe toy balloon of Claim 7, wherein coating said toy balloon so formed with a repulsive taste agent comprises printing on said toy balloon using a printing process.

15. A method of producing a safe toy balloon comprising:

(a) providing a dipping assembly containing at least one toy balloon forming material supporting mandrel;

(b) providing a series of vats including at least one vat containing liquid toy balloon forming material;

(c) dipping said balloon forming material supporting mandrel into said at least one vat containing liquid toy balloon forming material to form a toy balloon; and

(d) coating an interior of said formed toy balloon by introducing a repulsive taste agent into said interior of said formed toy balloon.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein introducing said repulsive taste agent comprises blowing said repulsive agent with a fluid into an interior of said formed toy balloon.

17. A method of producing a safe toy balloon comprising:

(a) providing a dipping assembly containing at least one toy balloon forming material supporting mandrel;

(b) providing a series of vats including at least one vat containing liquid toy balloon forming material;

(c) dipping said balloon forming material supporting mandrel into said at least one vat containing liquid toy balloon forming material to form a toy balloon;

(d) coating the exterior of said formed toy balloon by applying a repulsive taste agent onto said exterior of said formed toy balloon; and

(e) reversing surfaces of said toy balloon such that said exterior surface becomes an interior surface of said formed toy balloon.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein coating said exterior surface comprises dipping said balloon forming material support mandrel into a last vat containing a repulsive taste agent.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein coating said exterior surface comprises spraying said repulsive taste agent onto said exterior surface.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein said bittering agent comprises Denatonium Benzoate.